

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated July 25, 2007, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Burgess (U.S. Patent No. 5,695,859). Applicant hereinabove amends the claims to describe features of the invention more particularly.

As amended, claims 1 and 10 describe that a first of the plurality of communication elements initiates transmission to a second one of the plurality of communication elements, to operatively control a voltage between the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer, letting the second communication element acknowledge a change in the voltage, propagated around the first communication element as a signal. In amended claims 1 and 10, the claims describe the communication elements in communication with each other. In particular, a first of the communication elements initiates transmission to a second communication element to operatively control a voltage between the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer, letting another communication element to acknowledge a change in the voltage, propagated around the transmitting element, as a signal. Furthermore, the second communication element is assigned an ID identifying the element, and the transmitted signal includes an ID identifying a communication element which is subsequently to receive the signal in claim 1, and the first communication element is assigned an ID identifying the element, and the transmitted signal includes an ID identifying the communication element which transmitted the signal in claim 10.

In accordance with these features, the communication element can convey a signal to another communication element by using an ID without individual conductive wires between the elements.

Burgess relates to a floor mat, having piezoelectric (piezoresistive) elements which determine whether a person is located in a particular position on a floor relative to a piece of machinery. Depending on the pressure exerted by the user's weight on the mat, opposing conductive layers either make contact or do not make contact, thereby acting as an activation or cut off switch for the piece of machinery. In such application, Burgess does not disclose these features of communications between any communication elements as claimed.

The Examiner cites columns 2 and 15 to teach the general communication of data. However, the cited portion merely describes a two dimensional response against the piezoelectric elements. This does not include the requirements of the communication of elements, such as the ID signal, between elements. Therefore, claims 1 and 10 are patentable for at least this reason and the remaining claims are patentable based on their dependency.

With regard to claim 19, this claim describes a sensor that outputs a coded signal. To the extent that the piezoelectric elements of Burgess can be construed as a sensor, the elements merely act as contact switches to engage or disengage current flow. The switch function thus does not output a coded signal.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/822,095

Attorney Docket No. Q81029

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

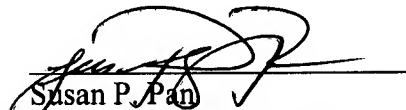
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